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firmly off. Up to 11 o'clock this (Sunday) morning nothing additional to the dispatches asserting that Gen. Lee was retreating has been received from Gen. Meade.

Highly Important—Rebel Pontoon Bridge Destroyed.

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1863.
The following has just been received:
"To Gen. Halleck: An expedition by me last night has just returned, having entirely destroyed the enemy's pontoon bridge over the Potomac at Williamsport."

"We captured the guard—a Lieutenant and 13 men."
W. H. French, Major-General.

From Gen. Meade—Rebel Army Withdrawn from Our Front.

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1863.
Dispatches from Gen. Meade, dated yesterday morning (4th), state that the Rebel army had withdrawn from his front, but whether for a retreat, or as a maneuver, was not then known.

Nothing has been received here up to this time (Sunday noon), so far as can be ascertained, conflicting with this intelligence.

The importance of the dispatches from Jeff. Davis and the Rebel Adj.-Gen. Cooper to Gen. Lee cannot be overestimated. They reveal the objects of Lee's campaign and the cause of its failure, and also the present views of the Rebel Government.

Gen. Sickles arrived here to day. His left leg has been amputated, but it is thought that he will recover.

The reports concerning the death or capture of Longstreet and A. P. Hill, are still conflicting. The Potomac is very high.

The Rebels in Full Retreat.

BALTIMORE, July 5, 1863.
The American has just put upon its bulletin the important announcement that the Rebel army is in full retreat, which was commenced on Friday night. Many thousands of prisoners and a large number of cannon are captured.

Thousands of Prisoners en route to Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, July 5, 1863.
Eight hundred and fifty Rebel prisoners, largely composed of Alabama troops, captured from Longstreet's corps in Wednesday's fight, arrived here this morning. More prisoners are announced at the depot, and accounts from up the road say there are large trains at various points, on their way down, while there are said to be scores of them awaiting transportation.

The Enemy Completely Hemmed In.

Our correspondent Beta, at Hanover, Pa., telegraphs us last evening:
"We have the enemy hedged on all sides. We apparently cannot fail to crush them."

Official Dispatch from Gen. Meade.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, July 4—10:10 o'clock, a. m.
The following has just been received:
HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
July 4, 1863—9:30 p. m.
New Gettysburg, Pa.

Major-General Halleck, General-in-Chief:
The enemy opened at 1 p. m., from about one hundred and fifty guns, concentrated upon my left center, continuing without intermission for about three hours, at the expiration of which time he assailed my left center twice, being upon both occasions handsomely repulsed, with severe loss to him, leaving in our hands nearly three thousand prisoners.

Among the prisoners is Brig.-Gen. Armistead, and many Colonels and officers of lower rank. The enemy left many dead upon the field and a large number of wounded in our hands.

The loss upon our side has been considerable. Maj.-Gen. Hancock and Brig.-Gen. Gibbon were wounded.

After the repelling of the assault, indication leading to the belief that the enemy might be withdrawing an armed reconnaissance was pushed forward from the left, and the enemy found to be in force.

At the present hour all is quiet.

My cavalry have been engaged all day on both flanks of the enemy, harassing and vigorously attacking him with great success, notwithstanding they encountered superior numbers, both of cavalry and infantry. The Army is in fine spirits.

GEO. G. MEADE, Major-General.

The President to the Country!

WASHINGTON, Saturday, July 4—10:20 a. m.
The President announces to the country that news from the Army of the Potomac up to 10 p. m. of the 3d is such as to cover that army with the highest honors—so promise a great success to the cause of the Union, and to claim the confidence of all for the many gallant fallen, and that for this, he especially desires that on this day, he whose will, not ours, should ever be done, be everywhere remembered and revered with the profoundest gratitude.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Great Victory on Friday.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune,
WASHINGTON, Md., via Baltimore,
Saturday, July 4, 1863.
Yesterday, the third day's struggle of the Army of the Potomac, brought another triumph to our arms, and last night another one set over a victorious but bloody-fought battle-field. The flower of the Southern army threw itself in one gigantic death-struggle upon our army, its Generals swearing to pierce our center or go down before the valor of our troops. The onset was fierce and bloody, and cost us many brave men, but the repulse of the invaders was complete, and thousands of slaughtered Rebels lay strewn along the ground, while thousands fell into our hands as prisoners. Many battle-flags have been taken. Four thousand Rebels captured yesterday are on their way to Baltimore, and several thousand are in camp guarded by our men.

Gen. Meade has now the admiration of the whole army. His daring acts and military strategy in placing in position his victorious army increase confidence in his generalship. He has fought as no one ever fought the Potomac army before.

Among our wounded yesterday were Gen. Gibbon and Gen. Webb.

The Rebel Gen. Arnold was killed.

Gen. Caldwell, Gen. Hancock and Gen. Doubleday, were seriously wounded, besides other officers in great numbers. Several members of General Meade's staff were wounded, so close was the encounter.

Many Rebel Generals have also fallen.

Gen. Hancock estimates the number of Rebel prisoners taken at 12,000.

The following details of the battle were taken by your correspondent from Gen. Hancock, who commanded the Second Corps during the fight last evening, when a Rebel bullet compelled him to fall to the rear.

As the firing ceased on Thursday night and our army, flushed with victory, covered the enemy's ground, it held command of the bloody battle field of the day.

The Rebel flag of truce was denied, and Friday morning found our army re-enforced by the reserves of the Sixth Corps, Gen. Sedgwick, and Twelfth Corps, Gen. Stocum. Holding the field, our army was in line of battle along the Emmettsburg Turnpike and along the Taneytown Road. Several rifle pits on the extreme right were left in possession of the enemy on Thursday night.

On Friday morning the ball was opened by Gen. Geary, who moved upon the enemy to retake these rifle pits. Firing now became general, and continued without damage to us until eleven o'clock, the rifle-pits falling into our possession. From 11 o'clock the firing slackened, but as 1 o'clock arrived, there were indications of another clash of arms more bloody than the historian of the war has yet recorded. The Rebels under Gen. Ewell now made a concentration of all their artillery, and opened a terrible artillery fire on our left center. Battery after battery roared, shaking the surrounding hills, and shot and shell rained death and destruction upon our lines.

The Second Corps occupied the center, and the position which withstood the last convulsive attack of the Rebels was commanded by Gen. Hayes. The enemy followed their artillery with a tremendous infantry assault under the Rebel Gen. Anderson, coming up in masses, sometimes in close column by division. Our men stood like serried hosts, and on came the enemy, crowding, shouting, and rushing toward our guns like infuriated demons. There was no waver in our lines. On came the Rebels, while the cannon from batteries told fearfully among their dying ranks. Now they are within twenty yards of our guns, and volley after volley of shot and shell and whizzing bullets go crashing down among them, dealing death and scattering the motley ranks to die or surrender.

The slaughter was fearful, and there were a few men of the enemy who did not find even a grave near our guns. The Third and Fifth Corps now joined in the fight. Gen. Hill's division alone took ten battle-flags as this last move of the enemy burst upon our center. A panic seemed to seize them. Men laid down on the ground to escape our fire and lying there they supplicatingly held up white pieces of paper in token of surrender. In this repulse we took several thousand prisoners, and crowds of Rebel stragglers came into our lines giving themselves up in despair.

Gen. Hancock's corps now flanked the field, when crowds of disorganized Rebels threw up their arms and surrendered, while the field strewn with Rebel wounded, battle flags and arms fell into our possession.

The result amounted to a rout. Cavalry has been sent out to harvest the stragglers. Gen. Hayes is said to have covered himself with glory. General Doubleday fell fighting gallantly, saying, as a ball pierced his head, "I'm killed, I'm killed!" Gen. Hancock thinks he is not killed, but seriously wounded. And thus night has drawn her mantle over another bloody day, but a day so bright with deeds of heroism and grand results, with patriotic devotion and sublime death, that the page of history shall glitter with that light.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune,
Gen. Meade's Headquarters, July 4—7 a. m.

The wagon trains of the enemy are seen retreating toward Chambersburg, and about forty pieces of flying artillery have started to cut them off. The 16th Vermont (new troops) have just come in with two captured flags of the 2d Florida Regiment. The left wing have captured five Rebel stand of colors. Last night the Pennsylvania Reserve drove the enemy several miles on the left. The Rebels formed and re-formed, but a battery of artillery being brought to bear, they were literally shattered and routed. At headquarters, the day before yesterday, of staff officers' horses sixteen were killed out of thirty-two in a few minutes by the enemy's shells. The firing was fearful, and very accurate.

This is universally allowed to have been the most desperate battle of the war. The 20th Massachusetts went into action with two hundred and fifty and came out with ninety-five. They lost the following officers: Col. Revere, killed; Capt. Patton, wounded in the leg; Lieut. Mary lost a hand; Capt. Menden, wounded; Lieut. Connelley, wounded; Lieut. Palmer, killed; Lieut. Royce, killed.

The enemy have been slaughtered wholesale. The field is covered with their dead.

The number captured is immense.

A whole brigade of the enemy surrendered yesterday.

Gen. Barleale of Mississippi is among the enemy's killed. He is buried near headquarters.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune,
WASHINGTON, Md., via Baltimore,
Sunday, July 5, 1863.

Great heat a fought yesterday. Rebels driven back from all directions. Gen. Meade held the field in night come on. Victory complete. Generals Hancock, Gibbon, Webb, and Caldwell were wounded. Things look bright. Nothing from the fight to-day.

The following officers and men were wounded and killed in the attack on Gen. Meade on Friday: Gen. Doubleday, seriously wounded; Maj.-Gen. Hancock, Gen. Gibbon, Gen. Webb, Gen. Caldwell, the Rebel Gen. Arnold, Col. Smith, Lieut. Delaware, Lieut. Col. Dickinson, Meade's staff, Maj. Mawney, 20th Mass., shot off; the Major of the 13th Massachusetts Regiment wounded; Capt. Ratty, of Pettie's Battery.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune,
BALTIMORE, Md., via Baltimore,
Sunday, July 5, 1863.

The enemy attacked our center and right this morning; and, after a most obstinate fight, were completely repulsed. Our men fought with heroic bravery; nothing could exceed it. It would seem that the Rebel General had determined to break our center line and flank us on the right. He did neither, thanks to the Army of the Potomac.

The battle is still raging, and full details will follow as speedily as possible.

We took a great many prisoners, and twelve stand of colors.

The Rebel Gen. Armistead is a prisoner in our hands. Gen. Barleale, who was Commandant at Fredericksburg all the winter, was killed on Thursday.

Our loss is heavy, but that of the enemy is much greater.

I send a list of casualties as far as I could ascertain them up to the time of my leaving the field.

R. D. FRANCIS.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune,
WASHINGTON, Saturday, July 4, 1863.

Dispatches received here state that the Rebel Gen. Longstreet is our prisoner, and that Gen. A. P. Hill has been killed. There is no official confirmation of it however.

To the Associated Press.

BALTIMORE, Saturday, July 4, 1863.

Reports deemed trustworthy from the battle-field down to 6 o'clock last evening represent that the

Rebels were repeatedly repulsed with fearful slaughter.

The battle lasted all day.

Seven thousand prisoners were taken.

The Union men of this city are highly jubilant and excitedly joyous over the favorable news from our victorious army.

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, July 4, 1863.

Col. Forney of The Press received the following highly important dispatch to-night from the Army of the Potomac:

Special Dispatch to The Philadelphia Press,
HANOVER, Pa., Sunday, July 4—5 p. m.

There has been no fighting up to this time to-day. Last evening we drove the enemy back to Gettysburg. Our lines this morning extend eight miles around Gettysburg, our batteries being on all the hills looking on the town from the south. We occupy Roundtop Ridge, commanding the Chambersburg turnpike, and have cut off all the lines of retreat. Our forces occupy the strongest possible position; a flank movement on our left is impossible.

At about 8 o'clock last night the Florida brigade of General Longstreet's division, with a Brigadier-General in command, advanced within our lines, and gave themselves up with their colors.

A bearer of dispatches from Jefferson Davis to Gen. Lee has been captured. The dispatches order Gen. Lee peremptorily to return to Richmond, and state that the movement into Pennsylvania was wholly against his wishes.

The following were among the officers killed in yesterday's engagement:

Col. Taylor, of the Bucktail Regiment, a brother of Bayard Taylor.

Lieut. Col. Miles, of the same Regiment.

Lieut. Manton, of Philadelphia, was wounded.

Major Kenney, of the Eleventh New-Jersey, was wounded in the knee.

We have captured about eight thousand prisoners.

Reports from Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Sunday, July 4, 1863.

Best informed parties at headquarters are in excellent spirits at the news from Gen. Meade. The battle is probably still in progress.

A gentleman who left Bridge No. 84 on the Northern Central Railroad at this morning, heard heavy firing. It was also heard in Harrisburg for about half an hour.

All is quiet in our immediate front. The Rebels are supposed to have left this immediate neighborhood entirely.

The Sanitary Committee of Pittsburgh have forwarded a lot of supplies to this point.

Our wounded have been all brought from Carlisle to Harrisburg, and are doing well.

Eighteen thousand men are in motion on the flank of the Rebels.

Telegraphic communication is kept up with Gen. Smith where he is.

A large number of men are at work on the Chambersburg Valley Railroad, and trains run to Carlisle.

HARRISBURG, July 5—1 o'clock a. m.

Most favorable news has been received here from the Army of General Meade, but the details, which are mostly of a general character, cannot be obtained, as the censor is silent and the governor has nothing.

The trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad will commence to run regularly on Monday morning. Not a bar of the road has been touched by the Rebels.

No further danger is apprehended to the Northern Central Railroad, the repairs to which are nearly completed.

A gentleman who left the battle-field at Gettysburg last night arrived here at noon. He came by way of York.

He says that the Rebel pickets were posted five miles this side of Gettysburg, and that the country between here and Gettysburg may be safely traversed.

Our troops are in excellent spirits. They say, universally, that this battle is the most desperate of the Army of the Potomac ever fought.

From the latest intelligence received here, it is fully believed that Gen. Lee's army has been completely defeated.

There has been no fighting to-day, and the Rebel army is endeavoring to retreat through South Mountain Pass and Boonsboro.

It is certain that Lee's retreat is already seriously interfered with, and his escape from our army will be a matter of great difficulty.

A large force is concentrated here, and ready for offensive operations at any moment.

Nearly the full quota of Pennsylvania is already raised, and organized either in regiments or companies at Reading.

Col. Dougherty, volunteer aid on Gen. Smith's staff, arrived here to-day, having been paroled by the Rebels.

The Captured Dispatches to Lee—The Object of the Invasion—Jeff Davis Opposed to It—Gen. Sickles's Wound and the Services of His Corps.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune,
WASHINGTON, July 5, 1863.

The intercepted dispatches from Jeff. Davis and his renegade Adjutant-General, to Gen. Lee, are of the most important acquisition than the brief paragraphs that profess to give the substance of their contents would indicate. They reveal the plan of Lee's campaign, wherein and wherefore it was not carried out, the points to which the Rebel Government is sending re-enforcements, and the precarious condition in which it considers its capital to be. According to these dispatches, as we learn through trustworthy channels, Gen. Lee invaded Pennsylvania without the knowledge of Jeff. Davis, who, it would appear, did not altogether approve of the movement. The object of the campaign was the capture of Washington, which was to be effected in this wise: Lee was to draw Hooker into Pennsylvania sufficiently far to uncover Washington, which Beauregard, with 30,000 men, to be concentrated at Culpeper Court-House, was then to attack and take. But, as further appears from these dispatches, Jeff. Davis felt unable to spare Beauregard 30,000 men, or any number of men, to co-operate with Lee. The Rebel President said that he considered the need of Johnson, who was constantly calling for reinforcements to make his army sufficiently strong to relieve Vicksburg, "the vital point," as Jeff. Davis calls it, decidedly more imperative than that of Gen. Lee, and had, therefore, sent him all the men that could be spared by Beauregard or Bragg. Nor could reinforcements be sent from Virginia; Richmond, as Gen. Lee is officially assured, is seriously threatened, and so small is its garrison that the citizens are organizing for its defense. The Rebel Adjutant-General Cooper gives the number of troops in Richmond, at Petersburg, and on the Blackwater, and undertakes to state the strength of the National army, by which he conceives the Rebel capital to be threatened.

The pontoon bridge captured from the Rebels at Williamsport was defended by a small guard, whom Gen. French easily overpowered.

Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, who had his right leg shot off about half-past 6 o'clock on Thursday evening, was brought here this morning by his attending surgeon, Dr. Sim. He was struck by a solid ball midway between his foot and knee, which so shattered the bone as to render an amputation above his knees necessary. This was performed on the field. Dr. Sim says that Gen. Sickles is doing very well indeed, and that there is no doubt at all as to his speedy recovery. The wound is already fast healing up, so successfully was the operation performed.

Officers who have since arrived here direct from the field say that had the enemy succeeded in making the flank movement, which Gen. Sickles successfully prevented, it might have been frightfully disastrous to our army, and might have turned the tables against Gen. Meade. Gen. Sickles's corps lost very heavily in this action.

Friday's Battle—Semi-Official Report.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
FRIDAY, July 3, 1863.

The decisive battle has been fought to-day, and the enemy have been repulsed with terrific loss. At daylight, Lee's right wing batteries opened upon our left, and shortly after those of his center followed. After half an hour's cannonading, doing but little damage to us, the fire slackened, and only occasional shots were exchanged. Shortly afterward the enemy's left, composed entirely of infantry and sharpshooters, made an attack on our right wing. So sudden and impetuously was it accomplished, that our skirmishers and front line were driven back from their intrenchments, but by the aid of the batteries in the rear, and the indomitable bravery of the 11th corps, we regained the first position, capturing a considerable number of prisoners.

Several hours of ominous silence followed this repulse. At one o'clock the enemy fired two shots, apparently as signals for the grandest artillery fight ever witnessed on this continent. Before a moment had elapsed it is estimated that at least 80 guns opened upon us. Our batteries returned the compliment with interest. The air seemed literally thick with iron, and for more than an hour it seemed impossible that man or beast could live through it. Strange to say, the enemy's accuracy of range, as exhibited on the two previous days, was wanting on this occasion. Most of their shells exploded far in the rear of our front, and generally missing our batteries. Under cover of this *feu d'enfer*, Lee advanced his columns of infantry for the covers, and made several desperate attempts to carry the lines by assault; but each successive attempt was repulsed with terrific havoc to their ranks. After an hour's incessant cannonading the fire grew less intense for a short time, but was again renewed for a little while with great spirit. During this period, some of our batteries, whose ammunition being expended and the men exhausted, ceased to fire, and on the approach of the reserve batteries withdrew to the rear. The enemy only seeing the batteries withdrawing, and mistaking this for a retreat, made a rapid infantry charge up the hill and obtained a position in our line, cutting to pieces and almost annihilating the small infantry supports; but before they had time to rejoice at their imaginary success, the fresh batteries posted in a deadly line of cannon and shot. The infantry reserves joined on either flank of the gap, charged them almost directly to their destruction. They were completely surprised, and hundreds threw down their arms, and asked for quarter. Nearly the entire brigade of Gen. Dick Garnett surrendered, and Garnett, himself wounded, barely made his escape.

Gen. Sickles was mortally wounded and captured. He is reported to have died in an hour afterward.

About 4:30 p. m. the artillery of the enemy slackened, and had entirely ceased at 5, the last shot which they fired being far beyond the sighted position, and the infantry columns had withdrawn to their covers.

We took upwards 3,000 prisoners. The enemy captured but few, if any, of our men. The Rebel prisoners report that Gen. A. P. Hill was killed outright upon the field, and that their officers suffered far greater casualties than in any previous engagement. So terrific was the enemy's fire that the small house where Gen. Meade and staff were quartered, was perforated by several shots. Many of the staff horses were killed round the house.

Gen. Butterfield was struck in the breast, and it is feared internally injured, by a piece of shell which exploded in the building. Lieut. Col. Joseph Dickinson of the staff had his left arm perforated by a flying fragment of shell, and it seemed a menace that no greater damage was done to life or limb. Several of our general officers were wounded in the engagement. Gen. Hancock was wounded in the leg. Gen. Gibbon, Warren, and Hunt, were wounded. In consequence of the excitement and difficulty in ascertaining their locations, the names of many prominent officers reported as killed or wounded, cannot be ascertained to-day.

Too much credit cannot be given to our batteries, who for hours stood to their guns under a burning sun and surrounded by the missiles of death, retiring only to give their positions to others, when their casks and limbers were exhausted of ammunition. The infantry engaged also nobly did their duty, and the enemy to-day at their hands have received the greatest disaster ever administered by the Union forces. All officers award the highest honors to Gen. Meade, for the able generalship he has displayed since he assumed command, and particularly for his coolness, decision, and energy on this memorable 3d of July. Last night, believing it to be his duty to the cause, and to learn how far he would be supported in the approaching conflict, he summoned his corps and division commanders for consultation.

Occupation of Gettysburg.

BALTIMORE, July 5, 1863.

The messenger who brought the account of Friday's battle, says:

We advanced and occupied Gettysburg during Friday night without opposition. Firing was heard early Saturday morning toward Gettysburg, supposed to be our forces pursuing Lee.

Gen. Neal is under treatment.

The 27th Maine Volunteers.

THEY ARE TO HAVE MEDALS OF HONOR—GEN. FRENCH'S OPERATIONS—GEN. SICKLES IMPROVING.

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1863.

About 300 members of the 27th Maine Regiment, Col. Wentworth, who volunteered to remain beyond their term while Washington was threatened, have been relieved by the war department, and left for home yesterday (Saturday) evening. Medals of honor are to be awarded them.

Major-General French yesterday succeeded in reaching Williamsport by a forced march from Frederick with considerable force, and has destroyed the pon-

toon bridge and train of Lee, which the latter left in position there to serve for emergency.

Major-General Sickles reached here by rail this morning. Though suffering from the loss of his leg, his physical condition is thought to be improving.

The Campaign in Pennsylvania—The March of the Army—The First Shock near Gettysburg—Death of Gen. Reynolds—The Subsequent Battles—The Victory.

From Our Special Correspondent.
HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
GETTYSBURG, Saturday, 7 p. m., July 4, 1863.

At 7 o'clock in the evening of June, Major-General George B. Meade became commander of the Army of the Potomac. That same night he issued orders to the several corps to move, and on the following morning the army moved as if unconscious of the change of commanders. The army was encamped about Frederick, Maryland. The main portion was ordered to move into Pennsylvania, through Emmettsburg, where the First, Third and Eleventh Corps encamped Tuesday. The Sixth was ordered to Carlisle. The Second and Twelfth were also near Emmettsburg. Early on Wednesday morning the First Corps, commanded by Major-General Reynolds, and the Eleventh, commanded by Major-General Howard, were ordered to Gettysburg, where it was reported the enemy had taken position.

The detachment was commanded by General Reynolds.

The troops were pushed forward rapidly, and arrived at Gettysburg, on the Baltimore pike, at half-past ten o'clock in the forenoon.

The First Corps was in the advance. The enemy's outposts were encountered in a wood west of the town, near the 81 m. m. Gen. Wadsworth, who commanded the 1st division, immediately engaged the enemy in his front, and fought him for the wood.

DEATH OF GEN. REYNOLDS.
Gen. Reynolds rode forward to inspect the ground and select a position for his line of battle. The enemy distinguished him as well from his soldierly bearing as from his uniform to be an officer of high rank, opened upon him with heavy volleys of infantry fire. He was struck by several balls and died instantly without uttering a word. His acting Adjutant-General, Capt. Bond, was at his side and caught him in his arms to prevent his falling from his horse.

This gallant officer, well and favorably known to the army and the country, never fought battles through ordies and aids, but always in person. Like Sumner, in battle he was at the head of his column to lead—and by his own example of personal courage sustain his command when danger reigned fearfully all around.

That he was too rash will be alleged by many; that he was a superior soldier and a brave man, is the testimony of every one who knew him.

He left fighting nobly for his country. Still more, he died in the defense of his native State. No treason-breeding soul drank up his blood, but all of him that was mortal is buried in the bosom of his own native State.

Major-General Doubleday succeeded to the command of the First Corps, and vigorously continued the operations commenced by Reynolds. Wadsworth being already engaged near the Seminary west of the town. Robinson's Division formed on the right and Doubleday's Division on the left of Wadsworth, and the whole line advanced through the woods, driving back the enemy. Soon, however, solid masses of Rebel troops were seen coming up and taking position on the right and left flanks, and it was evident that hot work was on hand.

Gen. Doubleday so distributed his forces as to hold a neck of woods on an eminence which was the key to the position. He continued with desperate fighting to hold his ground until the Eleventh Corps arrived and came to his relief. Maj.-Gen. Howard then assumed command of the forces. One brigade from S. S. Weir's division, was sent into the town to hold it. Gen. Howard, seeing the vital importance of retaining upon and holding the commanding positions, directed Gen. S. S. Weir to take his remaining brigade and the reserve artillery, place it on the Cemetery hill, and to defend the heights.

The divisions commanded by Schurz and Barlow were sent up to the immediate support of the First Corps. The troops were led forward with the memory of Chancellorsville before them, and with a determination to retrieve their lost honor. The two divisions moved through the town and took a position on the right of the First Corps, and fought desperately against Ewell's corps, which outnumbered them times to one. The first and second charges were stoutly resisted by the Eleventh Corps on the right, but on came a third charge with four regular lines for overrunning the little force on both flanks. The men still undaunted fought until both flanks were turned near half a mile.

The force now opposed to the 1st and 11th comprised the corps of A. P. Hill and Ewell, numbering over 60,000 men. Yet against this fearful odds the gallant band fought for hours, inflicting great slaughter on the enemy.

Reynolds and Zook were dead, and Paul and Barlow wounded, and Schumfelfennig a prisoner. Many field and line officers had been lost and nearly half the men before the order was given to retire to the heights near Cemetery hill.

Gen. Howard had carefully examined the topography of the surrounding country. He knew that a very strong force of the enemy lay in the valley; he felt, therefore, that the holding of Cemetery Hill, which commanded the whole surrounding country, was of the most vital importance. Accordingly he took the responsibility of falling back south-east of the town, to the commanding heights on both sides of the Baltimore pike.

The troops retired in the face of an overwhelming foe with a commendable steadiness. At times there was a little wavering, but nothing even approaching a panic. The corps by their conduct on Wednesday and later on the battle are entitled to great commendation, and the Chancellorsville disgrace is swallowed up by the achievements at Gettysburg.

Gen. Stocum with the 12th, and Sickles with the 3d Corps, came up and took position to the right and left of Howard, on the hills.

During the battle in the afternoon, when his troops were outnumbered and sorely pressed, Gen. Howard sent to Sumner, who was within five miles, to come to his relief. He sent a second time, but received no reply. Gen. Howard then sent his brother, Maj. Howard, to urge upon Gen. Stocum to come up in person if he would not send troops. Stocum replied that he did not wish to take the responsibility of the fight.

In the mean time, however, he moved up his corps to be ready to aid in defense of the heights if necessary.

Gen. Sickles on receiving Howard's request, at once moved up rapidly, but owing to the great distance he was in the rear his corps did not arrive until the second position had been taken.

The enemy was not disposed to attempt the carrying of the heights and here the battle ended.